



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

ASHLAND, BAYFIELD, BURNETT, DOUGLAS, IRON, PRICE, RUSK, SAWYER, TAYLOR, WASHBURN

July  
2005

### Northwest Wisconsin Jobless Rate Declines in June

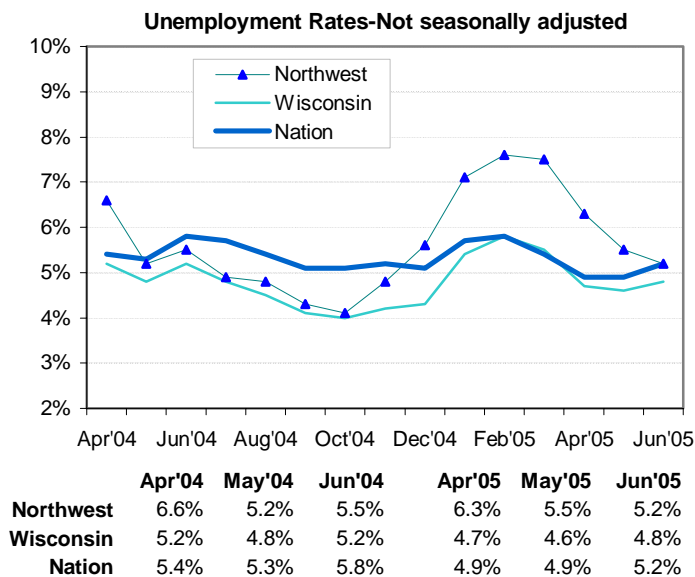
Northwest Wisconsin was the only region among the eleven in the state to see a decline in unemployment rate in June. In June, the unemployment rate in the northwest region was 5.2 percent, down from 5.5 percent in May and from 5.5 percent one year ago. Four of the region's ten counties posted lower unemployment rates in June, including the largest reduction in unemploy-

ment rate in the state in Taylor County. Three counties in the region posted unemployment rates that were changed from May and three more counties reported an increase in unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate in both the state and nation rose in June primarily as the number of new job seekers swelled the ranks of unemployed and increased the

overall number of labor force participants. The unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, for the State of Wisconsin in June was 4.8 percent, up from the 4.6 unemployed in May while the national unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent from 4.9 percent in May. The state seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 4.6 percent in June as the national rate dropped to 5.0 percent.

Generally, the northwest region would follow the same trend that other Wisconsin regions, and the state, experienced in June that shows an increase unemployment rates. Two primary factors contribute to the rise in unemployment in June. First, there is an influx in the number of job seekers as students enter the job market seeking summer employment or to begin a new career. Historically, this influx of jobseekers affects both the number of unemployed and employed in the region. Second, most school districts reduce hourly staff during summer recess and these laid off workers, mostly



### Civilian Labor Force Estimates\* for Northwest Wisconsin counties: June 2005

	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Labor force	9,824	9,330	9,876	8,571	8,164	8,593	8,761	8,486	8,895	23,189	22,956	23,396	3,181	3,116	3,308
Employed	9,255	8,810	9,257	8,155	7,764	8,158	8,348	8,085	8,435	22,116	21,845	22,095	2,964	2,880	3,035
Unemployed	569	520	619	416	400	435	413	401	460	1,073	1,111	1,301	217	236	273
% unemployed	5.8	5.6	6.3	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.7	5.2	4.6	4.8	5.6	6.8	7.6	8.3
	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Labor force	9,254	8,996	8,960	7,780	7,672	7,868	9,504	9,088	9,819	11,775	11,743	11,858	8,499	8,324	8,464
Employed	8,762	8,550	8,533	7,286	7,163	7,407	8,995	8,598	9,286	11,247	10,947	11,309	8,022	7,868	7,982
Unemployed	492	446	427	494	509	461	509	490	533	528	796	549	477	456	482
% unemployed	5.3	5.0	4.8	6.3	6.6	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.4	4.5	6.8	4.6	5.6	5.5	5.7

\* not seasonally adjusted

## Industry Employment Estimates for Northwest Wisconsin: Current month - June 2005

(Employment in thousands)	Ashland			Bayfield			Burnett			Douglas			Iron		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Total Nonfarm	9.4	9.2	9.4	4.6	4.2	4.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	17.8	18.2	18.2	2.2	2.2	2.3
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Trade	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Transportation & Utilities	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.1	0.0
Financial Activities	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.8	2.9	3.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Government	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.9	3.2	3.0	0.4	0.4	0.4
	Price			Rusk			Sawyer			Taylor			Washburn		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Total Nonfarm	7.2	7.1	6.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	7.6	7.3	7.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	6.5	6.4	6.4
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.0	1.9	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	1.0	1.0	1.0
Trade	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0
Transportation & Utilities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Education & Health Services	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.3	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8
Info, Prof/Bus.Srv, Othr Srv.	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
Total Government	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.4

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2004 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

cleaners, kitchen workers, bus drivers, and office helpers, add to the number of unemployed.

Both factors did affect the northwest labor market this June, but this year many of the new entrants moved directly into jobs and the number of employed in the region increased by 2,640 workers. In a total labor force in June in Northwest Wisconsin of 100,340 there were 95,150 residents with jobs and 5,190 unemployed residents. The current level of unemployed represents a reduction of roughly 180 since May when the estimate was bloated due to the atypical increase in Taylor County. In June, the number of unemployed in Taylor County declined by 270 as workers returned to jobs and the unemployment rate in the county dropped from 6.8 to 4.5 percent. The change in Taylor County played a significant role in generating the lower

unemployment rate for the region.

While all ten counties in the region reported an increase in the number of employed only Taylor, Rusk, Iron and Douglas showed a reduction in the number of unemployed residents.

The unemployment rate in Douglas County dropped from 4.8 percent in May to 4.6 percent in June, in Iron County the rate declined from 7.6 to 6.8 percent and in Rusk County the rate dropped from 6.6 to 6.3 percent.

Unemployment rates increased in 46 counties in June including Price where the rate rose from 5.0 to 5.3 percent, Ashland with an increase from 5.6 to 5.8 percent, and Washburn where the unemployment rate rose from 5.5 percent in May to 5.6 percent in June.

More jobs were gained than were lost in June and most of the reductions occurred as schools closed for summer break. Government employment

which fell by 450 in June will undoubtedly drop again in July as more of the summer reductions appear on payroll reports. Typically, government employers shed 2,000 jobs during the summer months in the northwest region.

Also related to the end of the school term is the loss of 150 jobs in transportation and utilities. Many school systems contract with private vendors to transport students and at the end of the school year these bus drivers are laid off.

All other industry sectors added jobs in June including an increase of 670 jobs with leisure and hospitality employers, 275 jobs with manufacturing employers, 260 jobs with trade employers, and 210 jobs with construction employers. Overall, the northwest region had a net gain of 980 jobs in June.



**Find the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)**

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